

How to Become An American

Information for Future Americans



ALLEGIANCE PLEDGE.
I pledge allegiance to my Flag,
And to the Republic for which it stands;
One Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and justice for all.

★ ★ ★

“The very idea of the power and the right of the people
to establish government presupposes the duty of every
individual to obey the government so established.”
—George Washington.

ISSUED BY THE
Americanization Committee of the City of Duluth
Duluth, Minnesota

1919

PRICE 10 CENTS

“Our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

—Abraham Lincoln.

How to Become an AMERICAN



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“You will take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Of allegiance to whom? Of allegiance to no one, unless it be God—certainly not of allegiance to those who temporarily represent this Government. You will take an oath of allegiance to a great ideal, to a great body of principles, to a great hope of the human race.”

—President Woodrow Wilson.

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Americanization Committee of the City of Duluth

DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

1919

Price 10 Cents.

“In this world one must be a little too kind to be kind enough.”

—Marivaux.

The Star Spangled Banner

O say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming;
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes;
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines in the stream.
'Tis the Star Spangled Banner! Oh, long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our Trust."
And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

—Francis Scott Key.



How to Become an American

Information for Our Future Citizens.

The United States of America is made up of peoples from many nations of the world who are bound together under a republican form of government—a government of the people, by the people and for the people, in a land where all may freely exercise and enjoy their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We are all from some of the old countries. If we were not born there ourselves, our fathers or grandfathers were.

We know of the excellent qualities of many who come to America from foreign lands, and we welcome them all and wish them as soon as possible to have a full share with the rest of us in the work, the business, the duties, the responsibilities, and the advantages of life here.

In some foreign countries arbitrary power is exercised by the monarch or by other self-constituted rulers, and what they

say and determine cannot be questioned by the common man.

In the United States the common man has a right to be heard, and all authority in the government proceeds, not from monarchs or autocrats, but from the people themselves. All have equal opportunity. All are equal before the law.

In the United States the Courts determine what persons of foreign birth shall be admitted as citizens. They are not seeking to deny this privilege to any. They, with others, welcome good citizens. The attitude of the Courts is friendly and encouraging to the admission of all good men. Certain qualifications are required by law on the part of the applicants for citizenship. Reading and study of the following pages will help those who wish to become citizens and to have a voice in the government of this country.

The United States

The United States of America is a nation consisting of forty-eight states in one union. Its area is about three-fourths that of all Europe. It has a population of more than one hundred million. The national government controls matters affecting all the country, such as our relations with foreign nations, the making of war and peace, the distribution of the mails, and other matters.

Each state in the union also has a government and laws of its own for the purpose of controlling and managing affairs which concern that state only.

There are therefore United States officers, United States laws, and United States courts, and there are at the same time state officers, state laws, and state courts, in each state.

Q. When did the United States come into existence?

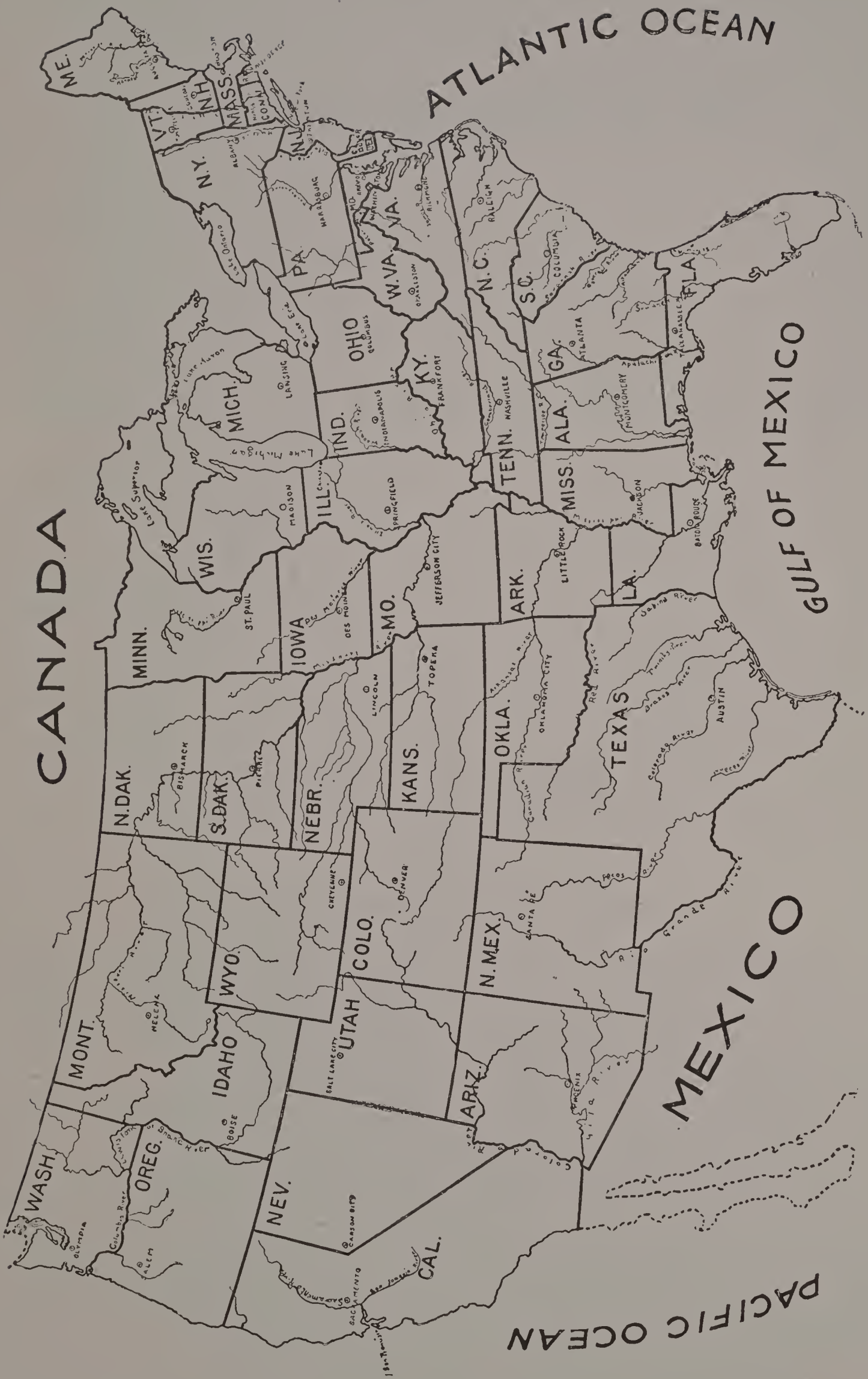
A. On July 4, 1776.

Q. Who was its first President, and when?

A. George Washington. 1789-1797.

Q. Where is the seat of government?

A. At the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia.



MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.
(See page 16 for names of States.)

“Above all, we must stand shoulder to shoulder for the honor and greatness of our country.”

—Theodore Roosevelt.

The Constitution

Q. What is the highest law in the United States and when did it become effective?

A. The Constitution of the United States, which was ratified in 1788.

Q. In general what does the Constitution provide?

A. It establishes a government by the people—a republican form of government. It prescribes the general form of such government, creates the various branches thereof, and defines the powers and duties of each.

Q. What controlling effect does the Constitution have over laws enacted for the nation or enacted in the various states?

A. All such laws must be in harmony with the Constitution of the United States or they cannot be enforced.

Congress

Q. Who makes the ordinary laws of the United States?

A. The Congress, made up of two Houses, or bodies of men, the Senators and Representatives. The latter are usually called Congressmen.

Q. Where does Congress meet, and when?

A. In the building at Washington called the Capitol, on the first Monday in December of each year.

(Picture of United States Capitol on Page 6)

Q. How many Senators are there in Congress, and how are they chosen?

A. There are two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof for a term of six years; ninety-six in all.

Q. How are the Representatives or Congressmen elected and how is their number determined?

A. They are elected by the people in each state for a term of two years. The number elected from each state depends upon the population thereof. Ten are elected in Minnesota. The total number at present is four hundred and thirty-five.

The President

Q. What officer is chief executive of the United States and what are his duties?

A. The President. His duties are to see that the laws are faithfully executed, that the important business of the government is properly managed, and that the duties of the government to the people are faithfully performed.

Q. How is he assisted in the performance of these duties?

A. This great work is carried on in ten separate departments, such as the Post Office Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the War Department, and others. At the head of each of these is a Secretary, appointed by the President, and these ten Secretaries constitute the President's chief advisers and are called his Cabinet.

Q. How is the President elected and for what term?

A. He is elected by the people of the United States, acting through electors, for a term of four years. (Name the President now in office.)

Q. What qualifications must he have?

A. He must be a native-born citizen of the United States and must be at least thirty-five years of age.

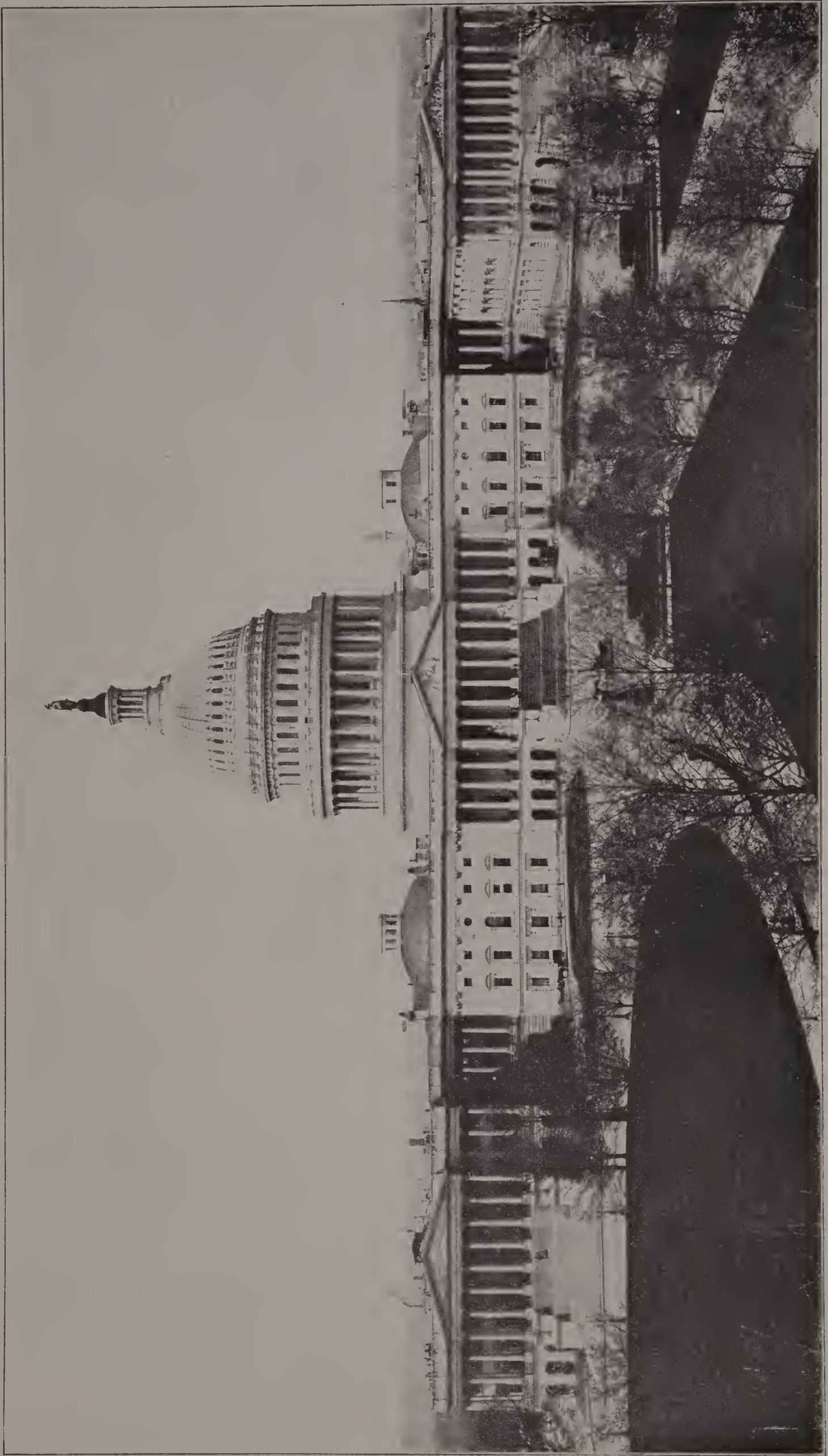
Q. Where does he live while President?

A. At the White House in the city of Washington.

(Picture of White House on Page 8)

“A small leak will sink a great ship.”

—Benjamin Franklin.



The House of Representatives meets
in this end of building.

THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Senate meets in this end
of building.

“Every good citizen makes his country’s honor his own and cherishes it, not only as precious, but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defence.”

—Andrew Jackson.

Q. What has he to do with making the laws?

A. All proposed laws, called bills, must be presented to him for approval. If he declines to approve, that is, vetoes the bill, it cannot become a law unless it is passed over his veto by two-thirds of each House of Congress.

Q. Upon the death or disability of the President, what officer would take his place, and how is such person elected?

A. The Vice President. He is elected in the same manner, at the same time and for the same term as the President. (Name the Vice President now in office.)

Q. What are his duties?

A. During the lifetime of the President the Vice President is the presiding officer of the Senate.

The Courts

Q. How are the laws of the United States explained and applied?

A. The United States has Courts to explain and apply its laws. The United States District Courts sit throughout the various states.

The Supreme Court of the United States sits in the Capitol at Washington.

The Judges of the United States Courts are appointed by the President for life.

The State of Minnesota

Minnesota is one of the forty-eight states in the Union. It is about as large in area as England and Scotland together, or about one-half as large as Sweden, or three-fourths as large as Italy. Its population is more than two million.

Speaking generally, each state has the right to manage and control such matters as affect the people of that state alone, such as taxes, the school system, the state roads, the care of the poor, and the public health.

Q. When did Minnesota become a state?

A. In 1858.

Q. Where is the seat of government of this state?

A. At the city of St. Paul.

The Constitution

Q. Does Minnesota have a written Constitution?

A. It does.

Q. In general, what does it provide?

A. It establishes a state government by the people—a republican form of government. It prescribes the general plan of such state government, creates the various branches thereof, and defines the powers and duties of each.

Q. Of what importance is this state Constitution?

A. All laws passed by the state legislature must be in harmony with the state Constitution as well as with the Constitution of the United States, or they cannot be enforced.

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor rather than silver and gold.”

—Prov. XXII. 1.



THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.
The Home of the President.

“We prefer this Constitution of the United States to any monarchy because we are convinced that it has a greater tendency to secure our liberty and promote our happiness.”

—Chief Justice Marshall.

The Legislature

Q. What is the State Legislature and how are its members elected, and for what terms?

A. It is made up of two Houses, or bodies of men, the State Senate and the State House of Representatives. It makes laws for the state of Minnesota only. The state is divided into legislative districts, and the people in each district elect one Senator and one or more Representatives. Senators are elected for four years and Representatives for two years. The State Legislature of Minnesota now has sixty-seven Senators and one hundred and thirty-one Representatives.

Q. Where and how often does the State Legislature meet?

A. It meets in January of every odd-numbered year, in the State Capital at St. Paul.

(Picture of State Capitol on Page 10.)

The Governor

Q. What officer is the chief executive of the state, and what are his duties?

A. The Governor. It is his duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed, that the important business of the state is properly managed, and that the duties of the state government to the people are faithfully performed.

Q. By whom is he elected and for what term?

A. He is elected by the people of the state for a term of two years.
(Name the present Governor.)

Q. Upon the death or disability of the Governor, what officer would take his place, and how is such person elected?

A. The Lieutenant Governor. He is elected at the same time as the Governor and for the same term.

The State Courts

Q. What State Courts are there, and what are their duties?

A. The State has Courts of Justices of the Peace, Municipal Courts, Probate Courts, District Courts, and the Supreme Court. Their principal duties are to explain and apply the laws of the state. The Judges are elected by the people for terms of different lengths.

Elections

Q. When is the general election held in this state?

A. It is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

Q. What state officers are elected at such general election?

A. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Justices of the Supreme Court, and others.

Q. At what place do these persons maintain their offices?

A. At the State Capitol in St. Paul.

Q. May women vote in this State?

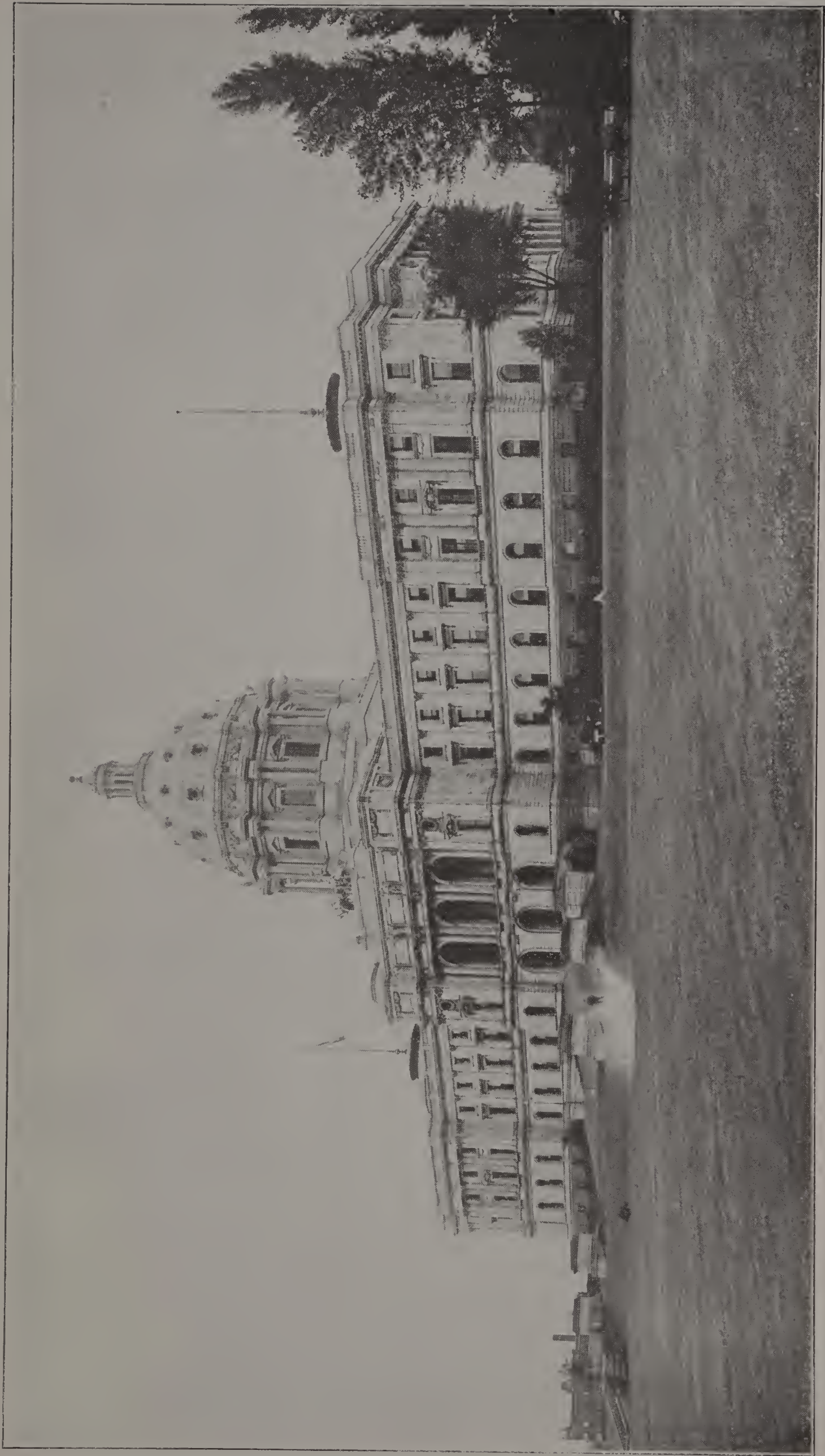
A. Under the present laws they may vote for the President of the United States and for school officers and members of library boards.

Q. What qualifications must citizens have to vote in this state?

A. They must have been citizens of the United States for three months before the election at which they offer to vote; they must be twenty-one years of age; they must have resided in this state for six months immediately before the election; they must have resided in their election district for thirty days immediately before the election.

“Cleanliness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence of God.”

—Francis Bacon.



STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Counties

Q. What is a county?

A. It is a subdivision of the state organized under the law for the purpose of enabling the state to better perform certain of its duties, and of enabling the people of the county in large measure to control and manage those matters which affect their own interests only.

Q. How many counties are there in Minnesota?

A. There are now eighty-six. (Name the county in which you reside.)

Q. What are some of the services or duties which the state performs through the agency of the county?

A. It supervises the schools, cares for the poor, builds the roads, maintains peace and order in the county, maintains Courts of Justice, and collects taxes to pay for these things.

Q. How and when are the county officers elected, and for what terms?

A. They are elected by the people at the general election in November of the even-numbered years. Most of them are elected for terms of four years. (Name some of them.)

Q. Where do these persons so elected maintain their offices?

A. At the Court House maintained by the county.

Towns

A county is divided into towns for the same reasons that states are divided into counties. In Minnesota the town officers are elected in March of each year. (Name some of them.)

Cities and Villages

Groups of people living closely together have many things in common immediately affecting their welfare and requiring constant attention. Among these are the streets, the water and light, the public health, fire protection, and others. The laws of the state authorize such groups to organize themselves into villages and cities. Through such organizations the state performs certain of its duties, and the people in such villages and cities in large measure manage and control such matters, including those above referred to, as affect their own interests only.

The governing body in a village is usually called the Village Council. The governing body in a city usually consists of a Mayor and a Board of Aldermen, or Commissioners. (Name some of them.)

The laws of a village or city are usually called Ordinances and are valid only within the city or village limits. Elections are held at various times.



MINNESOTA STATE SEAL

“America is more than a country. America is more than a continent. America is more than a name. America is an ideal. America is the apotheosis of all that is right and just.”

—Samuel Gompers.

Information Regarding Naturalization

The naturalization laws of today extend the privilege of becoming citizens of this country to free white persons and to those of African descent. There are three steps necessary under the law to attain citizenship, and these are as follows:

1. Declaration of intention to become a citizen. (First Paper.)

2. Petition for Naturalization.

3. Hearing before the Court, and Certificate of Naturalization. (Second Paper.)

(1) The Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States may be made before the Clerk of the District Court of the County wherein the applicant resides, or before the Clerk of the United States Court in the district wherein the applicant resides. A certified copy of this Declaration is called the First Paper. No witnesses are necessary in taking out such paper. This Declaration may be made by any person eighteen years of age or upward. If the declarant does not file a petition for Naturalization within seven years after making such Declaration of Intention, his First Paper becomes void.

(2) A person must have had his First Paper for at least two years, and must have resided in the United States for five years last past and in this state for one year last past before making application for his Second Paper. Such application is made by petition.

At the time of filing the Petition and at the hearing later on, the applicant must have with him two witnesses who are citizens of the United States and who have known him for the prescribed time in the United States and in this state. At the

time of filing such petition the applicant must present his First Paper and if he came to the United States after June 29, 1906, he must present also a certificate as to his arrival in the United States, which certificate he may obtain by writing to the Department of Labor, Bureau of Naturalization, Washington, D. C. The Clerk of Court will furnish blanks for this purpose if application is made to him therefor.

(3) Hearing on the petition for Second Paper may be had about ninety days after the filing thereof. At such hearing the applicant must satisfy the Court that he is a person of good moral character, that he has not been engaged in violating the law, and that he has some general knowledge of our country and government.

If the petition is favorably considered by the Court the applicant is required to renounce allegiance to all foreign governments by taking and subscribing to the following oath:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign power, prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to (insert name of sovereignty) of whom I have heretofore been a subject (or citizen); that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign or domestic, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. So help me God."

“There are two freedoms, the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; the true, where a man is free to do what he ought.”

—Charles Kingsley.

By order of the Court the applicant is then admitted to be a citizen of the United States and is given a Certificate of Naturalization which is called his Second Paper. This he should carefully preserve as it may be necessary to exhibit the same in proof of his citizenship at various times throughout his life.

None of these steps leading to citizenship is difficult or expensive, and while the applicant must appear in person before the Court, it should always be remembered that the Court is a friendly institution, and that every reasonable effort will be made to assist the person seeking citizenship to acquire that privilege.

Other Facts of Interest

When an alien becomes a citizen his wife and those children who are under 21 years of age who were born abroad and came to this country before they reached that age, are by his act also made citizens.

When a woman who is an alien marries a citizen of the United States she also becomes a citizen by virtue of such marriage.

When a woman who is a citizen of the United States marries an alien she loses her citizenship and takes on the nationality of her husband.

The vote of any citizen counts as much in the government of the country as the vote of any other, be he rich or poor, native-born or foreign-born.

A passport is an official paper given to a citizen of this country who intends to visit any other country and who wishes to receive the protection of this country while he is abroad.

A naturalized citizen may apply for a passport by presenting his Second Paper to the Clerk of Court and making application therefor through that officer to the government of the United States.

Advantages of being a Citizen

Through his right to vote a citizen, whether native-born or naturalized, has a direct voice in the government of the country. He and his wife and children have the protection of the United States while visiting foreign countries. He may own and bequeath property; may hold public office; may fill positions of honor and trust either in civil life or in the army or navy, and in time of war he is not subject to many of the restrictions imposed upon aliens. Other things being equal, a citizen enjoys priority of employment both in peace and war as against an alien applying for the same position.

Disadvantages of being an Alien

An alien has no vote at elections and no direct voice in the government of the country. Speaking generally, he cannot hold public office, or positions of trust under the government. He is less likely to obtain desirable work when competing with citizens for employment. He has

“We live in this world when we love it.”

—Sir Rabindranath Tagore.



STATUE OF LIBERTY, NEW YORK HARBOR.

“The American Republic was established by the united valor and wisdom of the lovers of liberty from all lands.”

—Daniel W. Voorhees.

less incentive to read and write English and to attain American standards of living, thought and action, and this may interfere with his future prosperity. If he leaves this country for a visit and seeks to return, he will be subject to the immigration laws then in force. In time of war his person and property may be subject to restrictions not imposed on citizens. If

he travels in a foreign country he does not have the protection of the United States while there.

The laws of this country in regard to inheritance and bequests, widows' pensions and other state and national benefits applying to citizens do not benefit aliens in the same degree, and may benefit them even less in the future.

Presidents of the United States and periods of office

	NAMES	Inaugurated	Term of Office	Born in
1	George Washington . . .	April 30, 1789	8 years	Va.
2	John Adams	Mar. 4, 1797	4 years	Mass.
3	Thomas Jefferson	Mar. 4, 1801	8 years	Va.
4	James Madison	Mar. 4, 1809	8 years	Va.
5	James Monroe	Mar. 4, 1817	8 years	Va.
6	John Quincy Adams . . .	Mar. 4, 1825	4 years	Mass.
7	Andrew Jackson	Mar. 4, 1829	8 years	S. C.
8	Martin Van Buren	Mar. 4, 1837	4 years	N. Y.
9	Wm. H. Harrison	Mar. 4, 1841	1 month	Va.
10	John Tyler	April 6, 1841	3 yrs. 11 mos.	Va.
11	James K. Polk	Mar. 4, 1845	4 years	N. C.
12	Zachary Taylor	Mar. 5, 1849	1 yr. 4 mos.	Va.
13	Millard Fillmore	July 9, 1850	2 yrs. 8 mos.	N. Y.
14	Franklin Pierce	Mar. 4, 1853	4 years	N. H.
15	James Buchanan	Mar. 4, 1857	4 years	Penn.
16	Abraham Lincoln	Mar. 4, 1861	4 yrs. 40 days	Ky.
17	Andrew Johnson	April 15, 1865	3 yrs. 10½ mos. . . .	N. C.
18	Ulysses S. Grant	Mar. 4, 1869	8 years	Ohio
19	Rutherford B. Hayes . .	Mar. 5, 1877	4 years	Ohio
20	James A. Garfield	Mar. 4, 1881	6½ mos.	Ohio
21	Chester A. Arthur	Sept. 20, 1881	3 yrs. 5½ mos. . . .	Vt.
22	Grover Cleveland	Mar. 4, 1885	4 years	N. J.
23	Benjamin Harrison	Mar. 4, 1889	4 years	Ohio
24	Grover Cleveland	Mar. 4, 1893	4 years	N. J.
25	William McKinley	Mar. 4, 1897	4 yrs. 6½ mos. . . .	Ohio
26	Theodore Roosevelt . . .	Sept. 14, 1901	7 yrs. 5½ mos. . . .	N. Y.
27	William Howard Taft . .	Mar. 4, 1909	4 years	Ohio
28	Woodrow Wilson	Mar. 4, 1913	Va.

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”

—Ecclesiastes IX, 10.

States, Territories and their Capitals, etc.

State	Abbreviation	Capitol	Largest City
Alabama	Ala.	Montgomery	Birmingham
Arizona	Ariz.	Phoenix	Tucson
Arkansas	Ark.	Little Rock	Little Rock
California	Calif.	Sacramento	San Francisco
Colorado	Col.	Denver	Denver
Connecticut	Conn.	Hartford	New Haven
Delaware	Del.	Dover	Wilmington
Florida	Fla.	Tallahassee	Jacksonville
Georgia	Ga.	Atlanta	Atlanta
Idaho	Ida.	Boise.....	Boise
Illinois	Ill.	Springfield	Chicago
Indiana	Ind.	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Iowa	Iowa	Des Moines	Des Moines
Kansas	Kan.	Topeka	Kansas City
Kentucky	Ky.	Frankfort	Louisville
Louisiana	La.	Baton Rouge.....	New Orleans
Maine	Me.	Augusta	Portland
Maryland	Md.	Annapolis	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Mass.	Boston	Boston
Michigan	Mich.	Lansing	Detroit
Minnesota	Minn.	St. Paul	Minneapolis
Mississippi	Miss.	Jackson	Meridian
Missouri	Mo.	Jefferson City	St. Louis
Montana	Mont.	Helena	Butte
Nebraska	Neb.	Lincoln	Omaha
Nevada	Nev.	Carson City.....	Reno
New Hampshire.....	N. H.	Concord	Manchester
New Jersey.....	N. J.	Trenton	Newark
New Mexico.....	N. M.	Santa Fe.....	Albuquerque
New York.....	N. Y.	Albany	New York
North Carolina	N. C.	Raleigh	Wilmington
North Dakota	N. D.	Bismarck	Fargo
Ohio	Ohio	Columbus	Cleveland
Oklahoma	Okla.	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City
Oregon	Ore.	Salem	Portland
Pennsylvania	Pa.	Harrisburg	Philadelphia
Rhode Island.....	R. I.	Providence	Providence
South Carolina	S. C.	Columbia	Charleston
South Dakota	S. D.	Pierre	Sioux Falls
Tennessee	Tenn.	Nashville	Memphis
Texas	Tex.	Austin	San Antonio
Utah	Utah	Salt Lake City.....	Salt Lake City
Vermont	Vt.	Montpelier	Burlington
Virginia	Va.	Richmond	Richmond
Washington	Wash.	Olympia	Seattle
West Virginia.....	W. Va.	Charleston.....	Wheeling
Wisconsin	Wis.	Madison	Milwaukee
Wyoming	Wyo.	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Territories and Their Capitals, and District of Columbia.			
District of Columbia.....		Washington, D. C.	
Alaska	Juneau	Hawaii Islands.....	Honolulu
		Porto Rico.....	San Juan



COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



THIS BOOKLET is designed to help all who wish to become citizens of the United States—those who attend the night schools and lectures, and those also, who for any reason, cannot so attend.